

The following Teacher-Child Ratios within the Group Size Chart should be used for best practices. Assessor will rate this criterion according to the highest ratio and group size for each Age Category (Infant, Toddler/Two, Preschool, and Kindergarten).

Teacher-Child Ratios within Group Size (assessed in Criterion 10.B.12)												
Age Category	Age Range ¹	Group Size ²										
		6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	30
Infant	Birth to 15 months	1:3	1:4									
Toddler /Two	12 to 28 months	1:3	1:4	1:4 ³	1:4							
	21 to 36 months		1:4	1:5	1:6							
Preschool	30 to 48 months (2½ to 4 years)				1:6	1:7	1:8	1:9				
	48 to 60 months (4 to 5 years)						1:8	1:9	1:10			
	60 months to Kindergarten Enrollment (5 years to Kindergarten Enrollment)						1:8	1:9	1:10			
Kindergarten	Enrolled in any public or private kindergarten								1:10	1:11	1:12	

¹ These age ranges purposefully overlap. If a group includes children whose ages range beyond the overlapping portion of two age categories, then the group is a mixed-age group. For mixed-age groups, universal criteria and criteria relevant to the age categories for that group apply.

² Group sizes as stated are ceilings, regardless of the number of staff.

³ Group size of 10 is permissible for this age range, but an additional adult is required to stay within the best practice ratio.

Notes:

Teaching staff-child ratios within the group size as noted above are maintained during all hours of operation.

Groups of children may be limited to one age or may include multiple ages. A group or classroom consists of the children who are assigned to a teacher or a team of teaching staff for most of the day and who occupy an individual classroom or well-defined space that prevents intermingling of children from different groups within a larger room or area.

When children join a group, it is considered a separate group if the children intermingle for more than two hours and the composition of the original group of children changes by more than 50%.

In such cases the separate group should be reported as such (for example, when kindergartners join a preschool classroom after their school day).

Mixed-age groupings: In a mixed-age preschool class of 2.5-5 year-olds, no more than four children between the ages of 30 months and 36 months may be enrolled and the ratios within group size for the predominant age group apply. If infants or toddlers are in a mixed-age group, the ratio for the youngest child applies.

For a group of 10 children, in a Toddler/Two group with ages 12 months to 28 months, there must be 3 teaching staff to meet.

Determining Teacher-Child Ratios within Group Size	
<p>Individuals should be classified as teaching staff members based on the role they fill in the program, following the definitions in Definitions Related to Teaching Staff Members. With some exceptions (as noted below), only teaching staff members (teachers and assistant teachers–teacher aides) are considered when determining whether a program is meeting teacher-child ratios within group size, which is assessed in criterion 10.B.12.</p> <p>Criterion 10.B.12 states, “Written procedures address the maintenance of developmentally appropriate teaching staff-child ratios within group size to facilitate adult-child interaction and constructive activity among children. Teaching staff-child ratios within group size are maintained during all hours of operation, including indoor time, outdoor time, and during transportation and field trips (when transporting children, the teaching staff-child ratio is used to guide the adult-child ratio).” This criterion is always assessed for determining NAEYC Accreditation but it is not a Required Criterion.</p>	
Exceptions When Determining Teacher-Child Ratios within Group Size	
Exception	Description
Program Administrator	A program administrator fulfilling the responsibilities of a teaching staff member may be counted.
Substitute	An adult substituting for a teaching staff member may be counted.
Special Subject Teachers or Other Ancillary Professionals	When an ancillary professional (such as a music teacher, art teacher, or librarian) is providing a planned activity for one hour or less, that person may be counted toward the teaching staff ratio but does not need to be included in other reporting requirements for teaching staff.
Nap Time	When two or more adults must be present during naptime, at least one of the adults present must be a teacher or assistant teacher–teacher aide (for example, a group of 5–8 infants would require at least two people, one of which is a teacher or assistant teacher–teacher aide, to be present to meet the ratio). Additional adults may be staff members or other adults who function in a different role.
Brief Absences of Teaching Staff	Ratios are considered to remain in compliance when a staff member leaves the group without a substitute for no more than 5 minutes (e.g., to get craft supplies, talk in the hall to a parent, go to the bathroom, etc.). If a teaching staff member is absent for more than 5 minutes but less than 20 minutes (e.g., to take children to the bathroom, to administer first aid, to take a personal break), the ratio is considered to remain in compliance when another adult who is not part of the teaching staff substitutes for the staff member.